



After Dinner

profile

Joan Weimer.

by Luanne Faulter

What do Joan Baez, Leonard Bernstein, William F. Buckley, Jr., Arthur Miller, Jacob Javitz, Lillian Hellman and Dr. Joan Weimer, Drew's Associate Professor of English, all have in common? Besides being easily recognizable names... at least to the Drew student, they share a more important common factor. All of these people are members of Amnesty International (AI).

AI, recipient of the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize, is a worldwide humanitarian organization spawned in 1961 to help free and gain justice for what they call "Prisoners of Conscience." Perhaps you may wonder how Dr. Joan Weimer, who is noted for her concerns in women's rights, became involved in the plight of political prisoners. To clear up this disjunction it is necessary to back track to the year 1974.

As an outgrowth of her Women in Literature course Dr. Weimer decided to investigate the role of women in Brazil during her 1974 sabbatical. This study entailed social problems concerning women beyond literature and these problems she says "are always political. Women's fights and human rights can't be separated."

She wrote two articles from her research on women in Brazil. It was the relationship between women and other political patterns which led her to the problems of political prisoners. Shortly after Dr. Weimer returned from Brazil she joined AI and with the cooperation of her husband and Jonathan Barton, RD of Tolley, they started a Madison Area chapter of the organization with its base at Drew University. John Barton is the president of the chapter and those wishing to obtain information about AI



can contact him or Dr. Weimer.

Dr. Weimer readily admits that she is a novice in the study of social theory. Since her interests in both women's rights and prisoners of conscience converge on the social plane, she is going to Stanford University, California next semester to study feminist

anthropology which will aid her in expanding her knowledge of social theory. Currently, Dr. Weimer and her husband are co-writing a novel about missing persons in Brazil, another outgrowth of their interest in the problems of political prisoners.

Dr. Weimer also displays her concern

for women's rights through her involvement in Academic Women at Drew (AWD). This group seeks equality in the treatment of women, both faculty and students, on campus. AWD helps women pursue such issues as equal use of gym facilities, gynecological services at the infirmary, salaries and curriculum. In reference to curriculum, the group is presently attempting to work out a regular minor degree in Women's studies at Drew.

With such a hectic schedule it seems Dr. Weimer has found an excellent release through physical exercise. She calls herself a "physical fitness buff" and she plays tennis and practices Yoga. She considers herself a "rotten but enthusiastic tennis player." Haha Yoga, which is purely physical and not a mystical practice, gives her "energy and relaxation," helping to rid her of tension.

Like other professors, Dr. Weimer apportions her time effectively enough to lead several lives. She teaches, is active in AI and AWD, writes, and still has time to enjoy physical recreation. I ask myself, tongue-in-check, why students on a whole have so much trouble finding time to juggle just a few classes.

OOPS! CORRECTION.

The second paragraph of last week's profile on Dr. Joannia Gillespie should have read: Dr. Gillespie considers herself "a new and old feminist." "Old," she explains, "because of the fact that she didn't discover feminism when she was young since society was much stricter with women." "New" because now that times have changed, she has moved into a role that she understands. We apologize for the omission of that crucial phrase.

The Editors

Michael Kartzmer: Manager, Playwright, Cook, etc.

by Doug Calem

Will you be able to keep up with the hassles of mid-terms, papers, and reading assignments, as well as directing three one-act plays, handle the organization of WERD and hold a part-time campus job all at once? Michael Kartzmer, a junior double majoring in History and Theatre Arts, does all this and enjoys most of it, which is quite evident by the ear to ear grin he has on his face while talking about his activities.

The three one-act plays Mike directs — all written by him — gives him enough reason to smile through his tedious schedule. Each one of these plays are different in style, situation and characterization but they are all tied together by one central theme: the inability of people to communicate.

The first play, *Shadowed from the Sun*, was presented on campus at the Cellar Studio Theatre last spring and will be performed again. The other two, *Not Fit for Television* and *The Waiting Room* (which is hot off the press) are all recent works which make their debut when all three are shown in one night in a series called *Not Fit for Television*.

Writing a play is quite a task. Asked how he gets his ideas and how he proceeds to write them, Mike leans

back, grins wider and says: "My ideas for the plays come either from a brainstorm or seeing an event in a real life situation. I transform that onto paper."

Mike doesn't envision a total play before he sits down to write it. "I usually have an idea or character in mind when I start, but I never know where I'll end up. About two months after I start, I'll come up with a rough draft," he added. "Also, I can't write in a neat room. If one thing is out of place it stands out and affects my relaxation. Writing in a messy room comes easier because everything lies where it belongs."

His inspiration came from Professor McLaughlin during a play writing course he took last fall. He owes much to Professor McLaughlin for giving students a chance to write.

When asked if he was writing with any specific audience in mind, Mike answered "no." "My plays have different levels of interpretation. A simpleton can walk in and enjoy the play as much as a highly intellectual person, but that intellectual person will be able to get more out of the play because he can interpret it at all levels, whereas the simpleton may not."

For Mike, the most thrilling thing

about his plays is seeing them produced. He said that last spring he got double pleasure when his play *Shadowed from the Sun* was being produced and he also has to step in as an actor.

Mike plans to do more writing in the future. One of his goals is to write a full length play and to prove its worth, have it published and produced.

But writing plays is only one part of Michael Kartzmer's pastimes. He is also in his second year as the General Manager of WERD. He is ultimately responsible for the general function of the station. He works with the disc jockeys and oversees what they do.

"Thus far this year, I am pleased with the job the DJ's are doing and with the general organization of the station. As for the future of the station, we are attempting to go FM by next year,

pending administrative approval. The DJ's will have to pass a test to get a third class license, but that's no problem. By becoming an FM station, we will improve our reception, and as a result of that, we will increase our audience" Mike said.

Other minor functions that Mike occupies are: as the General Manager of WERD, he is the communications Board's representative to the E.C.A.B., and he is a cook for Woods (although he claims no responsibility for the quality of the food).

As for Mike's immediate future, he has no plans after graduation. "I would like to continue writing, but that is a difficult occupation for a steady source of income. Ultimately, I would like to travel, but whatever I end up doing, I will be satisfied."

